

# NEWS RELEASE

Indiana Criminal Justice Institute



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## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

June 27, 2008

### **Don't Let This Fourth of July Blow Up in Your Face! Governor's Council reminds all motorists to celebrate responsibly over July 4<sup>th</sup> holiday**

Indianapolis, IN. – The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving an advisory body to the Traffic Safety division of the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute (ICJI), is reminding all motorists and party-goers that *Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving* and to designate a sober driver before the July 4<sup>th</sup> celebrations begin.

"It is obvious when someone has had way too much to drink to drive safely. But what about those who have had just a few too many?" said ICJI Executive Director, Neil Moore. "Since the word "buzzed" is a popular drinking-level descriptor of choice among the 18-44 males that we target with impaired driving messaging, ICJI hopes to get more young men talking about and recognizing the real dangers of buzzed driving," Moore added.

According to ICJI, the Fourth of July holiday is one of the most deadly times on Indiana's roadways. In 2007, a total of 2,500 collisions occurred on Indiana roadways from June 29-July 5, 2007. Of that number, 98 were found to involve a driver or motorcycle operator with a BAC of 0.08 or higher.

Alcohol plays an even more significant role in motorcycle fatalities. Of the 112 fatalities among Indiana motorcycle operators in 2007, 35.7 percent were in alcohol-related collisions. The same year, 25 percent of Indiana motorcycle operator fatalities had reported BAC levels of 0.08 or greater.

For the past five years, statistics show that impaired driving has remained a relative constant that continues to overshadow summertime celebrations. The fatality numbers bear this out - as a total of 13 people lost their lives on Indiana roadways during the Fourth of July holiday period in 2007.

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***Buzzed Driving Is Drunk Driving.***

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**Neil Moore, Executive Director**

**[www.in.gov/cji](http://www.in.gov/cji)**

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Moore noted that the tragedies resulting from drunk driving can be prevented with a few simple precautions before going out to celebrate:

- Plan a safe way home before the festivities begin;
- Before drinking, designate a sober driver and give that person your keys;
- If you're impaired, use a taxi, call a sober friend or family member, or use public transportation;
- If you happen to see a drunk driver on the road, contact local law enforcement;
- And remember, *Friends Don't Let Friends Drive Drunk*. If you know someone who is about to drive or ride while impaired, take their keys and help them make other arrangements to get to where they are going safely.

*The Governor's Council on Impaired & Dangerous Driving serves as the public opinion catalyst for statewide action to reduce death and injury on Indiana roadways. The Council provides ongoing support to state and local traffic safety advocates. For more information, please visit [www.in.gov/cji](http://www.in.gov/cji).*

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